(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Domestic air passenger traffic increase during the last three years is as follows:

| Year | Domestic Passenger carried (in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 118.6 |
| 1999 | 122.3 |
| 2000 | 133.2 |

(c) and (d) Airlines are free to connect any place/routes based on their commercial judgement subject, of course, to the compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

**Direct flight from Hyderabad to Jeddah**

3061. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has started direct flight from Hyderabad to Jeddah;

(b) if so, whether there is enough passenger traffic from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the other Air India flights proposed to be added from Hyderabad in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India commenced operation of direct flight from Hyderabad to Jeddah once a week on Wednesdays effective 16th May, 2001.

(c) Air India is constantly monitoring the market situation and as and when there is demand and subject to commercial viability, they will add more flights from Hyderabad.